

SYSTEM AVAILABILITY AND RELIABILITY SUBJECT TO COMMON-CAUSE TIME-VARYING FUZZY RATES

M. A. EL-DAMCESE¹ & NAGWAYOUNS²

¹Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Tanta University, Tanta, Egypt

²Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Kafr El-Sheikh University, Kafr El-Sheikh, Egypt

ABSTRACT

This study presents a method for calculating the availability and reliability of a system depicted by block diagram, we use the Marshall and Olkin formulation of the multivariate exponential distribution. That is, the components are subject to failure by Poisson failure processes that govern simultaneous failure of a specific subset of the components. A model is proposed for the analysis of systems subject to common-cause time to simultaneous failure and the time to repair of each state follow Rayleigh distribution with unknown parameters which can be represented by triangular fuzzy numbers estimated using the statistical data then we introduce the procedures to determine the availability function, the reliability function. The method for calculating the system availability and reliability requires that a procedure exists for determining the system availability and reliability from component availabilities and reliabilities, under the statistically independent component assumption. A numerical example has been studied in detail to illustrate the model and to get analytic and graphical results.

KEYWORDS: System Availability, System Reliability, Common-Cause Failures, Fuzzy Rayleigh Distribution

1. INTRODUCTION

COMMON CAUSE FAILURE (CCF) is the failure of multiple components due to a CC (single occurrence or condition). The origin of CC events can be outside the system elements they affect (e.g., lightning events that cause outages of unprotected electronic equipment) or can originate from the elements themselves, causing other elements to fail (e.g., voltage surges caused by inappropriate switching in power systems that lead to failure propagation). CCF increase joint-failure probabilities, thereby reducing the reliability of technical systems. Several papers have been devoted to modeling CCF distributions [1]–[3] and estimating the effect of CCF on system reliability or availability [4]–[12]. There are two approaches for incorporating CCF into system reliability analysis: explicit and implicit [7].

Fuzzy set was introduced firstly by Zadeh [13] then it was applied in various fields containing uncertainty as Markov chains (Buckley [14]).

For the real time conditions, Chen [15] presented a new method for system reliability analysis based on the α -cuts arithmetic operation on the fuzzy time series. Wang [16] applied fuzzy random lifetimes for a series and parallel system, and Sharifi suggested an algorithm for reliability evaluation of a system containing n elements connected in parallel as in [17] or in a k -out-of- n system [18] assuming the failure rates are increasable and represented by fuzzy numbers.

El-Damcese and Temraz [19] use a model for a k -out-of- n : F system that consists of n independent and identical components connected in parallel using non-homogeneous/ homogeneous continuous-time Markov chain.

Notation

n: number of components in the system;

k: number of good components that allow the system to operate;

Z_r: Poisson failure process that governs the simultaneous failure of a specific set of *r* components;

S_i: Event that component *i* is good;

: number of combinations of *r* items out of a possible *n* items; $\binom{n}{r}$

$p_n^k(t)$: probability that all components of a specific *k*-component subset out of an *n*-component system are operating at time *t*;

$A_{CC}(t)$: system availability at time *t* with identically distributed components having common-cause failures;

$A_{SC}(t)$: system availability at time *t* with i.i.d. components;

$h_i(t)$: (failure/ repair) rate of component *i*;

θ_i, α_i : the parameter of the (failure/ repair) rate distribution of component *i*;

$R_{CC}(t)$ reliability at time *t* with identically distributed components having common-cause failures;

$R_{SC}(t)$: reliability at time *t* with i.i.d. components;

i.i.d.: s-independent and identically distributed.

2. COMPONENT AVAILABILITY AND RELIABILITY MODEL

Figure 1 is the state transition diagram for the 1-component availability model.

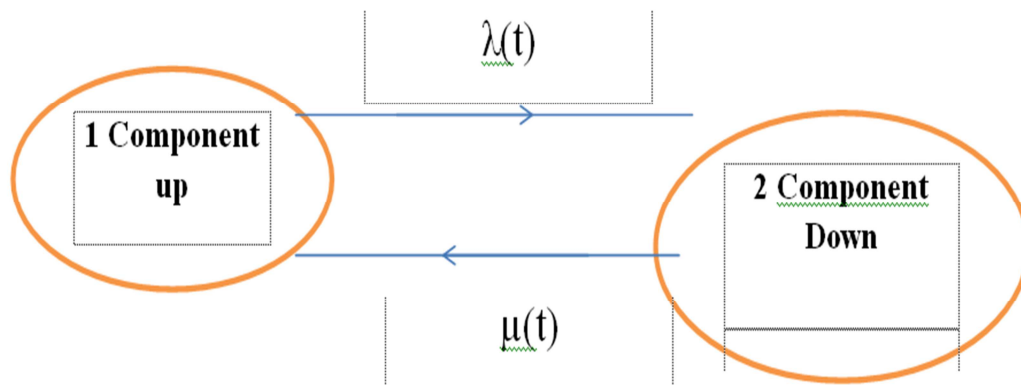


Figure 1: Component Availability State- Transition Diagram

Probability of working state 1 at time *t* is:

$$\frac{dP_1(t)}{dt} = -\lambda(t)P_1(t) + \mu(t)P_2(t)$$

since $P_1(t) + P_2(t) = 1$, we have

$$\frac{dP_1(t)}{dt} = -[\lambda(t) + \mu(t)]P_1(t) + \mu(t) \quad (1)$$

Let the (failure/repair) function of a component following a 1-parameter Rayleigh distribution can be described by:

$$\lambda(t) = \frac{t}{\theta^2}, \quad \mu(t) = \frac{t}{\alpha^2} \quad (2)$$

thus,

$$\frac{dp_1(t)}{dt} = -\left[\frac{t}{\theta^2} + \frac{t}{\alpha^2}\right]p_1(t) + \frac{t}{\alpha^2}$$

since $P_1(0) = 1$, then the availability $A(t)$ of component is

$$A(t) = p_1(t) = \frac{1}{\theta^2 + \alpha^2} [\theta^2 + \alpha^2 \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\theta^2 + \alpha^2}{\alpha^2 \theta^2}\right)t^2\right]] \quad (3)$$

In general, the availability of component i is:

$$A_i(t) = \frac{1}{\theta_i^2 + \alpha_i^2} \left[\theta_i^2 + \alpha_i^2 \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\theta_i^2 + \alpha_i^2}{\theta_i^2 \alpha_i^2}\right)t^2\right] \right], \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n \quad (4)$$

In special case for without repair, the reliability of component i is:

$$R_i(t) = \exp\left[-\frac{t^2}{2\theta_i^2}\right], \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n \quad (5)$$

3. SYSTEM AVAILABILITY AND RELIABILITY ANALYSIS WITH COMMON-CAUSE HAZARDS

A specific component can fail due to the occurrence of several different failure processes.

1. There is the 1-component process Z_1 for s -independent failure of the specified component.

2. There are 2-component processes that include the specified component. There are a total of $\binom{n}{2}$ i.i.d. Z_2 failure processes but only $\binom{n-1}{1}$ of these processes include the specified component. In general, there are $\binom{n}{r}$ i.i.d. Z_r failure processes with exponential parameters, governing the simultaneous failure of r components. Of these $\binom{n}{r}$ failure processes, $\binom{n-1}{r-1}$ of them include the specified component.

$A_n^{(1)}(t)$ is the probability that the specified component is operating at time t, viz, the probability that none of the processes governing the simultaneous failure of r components, $r = 1, 2, \dots, n$ includes the specific component. Based on s-independence of the Poisson processes-

$$A_n^{(1)}(t) = \prod_{i=1}^n [A_i(t)]^{(n-1)} \quad (6)$$

The probability that a specific group of k components out of n-component system are all good is:

$$A_n^{(k)}(t) = \Pr\{S_1 \cap S_2 \cap \dots \cap S_k; t\}.$$

$$A_n^{(k)}(t) = \Pr\{S_1; t\} \Pr\{S_2 / S_1; t\} \dots \Pr\{S_k / S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{k-1}; t\}$$

$$A_n^{(k)}(t) = A_n^{(1)}(t) A_{n-1}^{(1)}(t) \dots A_{n-k+1}^{(1)}(t)$$

thus,

$$A_n^{(k)}(t) = \prod_{m=n-k+1}^n A_m^{(1)}(t) \quad (7)$$

These formulas were originally derived from Kyung for constant failure rates; similar arguments are valid for time-varying failure rates.

The results are $A_{CC}(t)$ and $A_{SC}(t)$ in terms of availabilities $A_i(t)$.

$R_n^{(1)}(t)$ is the probability that the specified component is operating at time t without repair, Based on the s-independence of the Poisson processes, we have:

$$R_n^{(1)}(t) = [\prod_{i=1}^n R_i(t)]^{(n-1)} \quad (8)$$

The probability that a specific group of k components without repair out of n-component system are all good is:

$$R_n^{(k)}(t) = \prod_{m=n-k+1}^n R_m^{(1)}(t) \quad (9)$$

4. THE FUZZY SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND AVAILABILITY

Due to uncertainty in the values of parameters, they can be modeled by triangular fuzzy number, we use the triangular membership function: $\tilde{\theta}(L_i, M_i, U_i), \tilde{\alpha}(L_i', M_i', U_i')$

we can represent fuzzy failure and repair rates by crisp intervals using α -cuts of membership functions as follows:

$$= [L_i + \alpha(M_i - L_i), U_i - \alpha(U_i - M_i)], 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1 \quad (10)$$

$$[\tilde{\alpha}_i^L, \tilde{\alpha}_i^U]_{\alpha-cut} = [L_i' + \tilde{\alpha}(M_i' - L_i'), U_i' - \alpha(U_i' - M_i')], 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1 \quad (11)$$

Where M_i (M_i'), L_i (L_i') and U_i (U_i') are the point estimation, lower and upper of $\tilde{\theta}_i$, $\tilde{\alpha}_i$ respectively

In general, if m , the size of random sample, then the point estimation and the $(1 - \gamma)100\%$ confidence interval for each parameter $\tilde{\theta}_i$, $\tilde{\alpha}_i$ can be calculated from the following relations.

$$M = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m X_i^2 / 2m}, M' = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{m'} X_i^2 / 2m'} \quad (12.1)$$

$$[L, U] = [M \pm Z_{\gamma/2} \sqrt{\text{var}(M)}], [L', U'] = [M' \pm Z_{\gamma/2} \sqrt{\text{var}(M')}] \quad (12.2)$$

$$\text{Where, } \text{var}(M) = \frac{M^2}{4m}, \text{var}(M') = \frac{M'^2}{4m'}, \gamma = 0.05 \quad (12.3)$$

5. ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

The system in Figure 1 consisting of 10- components in two subsystems A, B arranged in series-parallel. Subsystem A consist of two paths each contains two components A_i , $i=1, 2$. The two paths are parallel while subsystem B consists of two paths each contains three components B_i , $i=1, 2$ arranged in series. However the two paths are parallel to each other. The system failed when any of the two subsystem A or B failed.

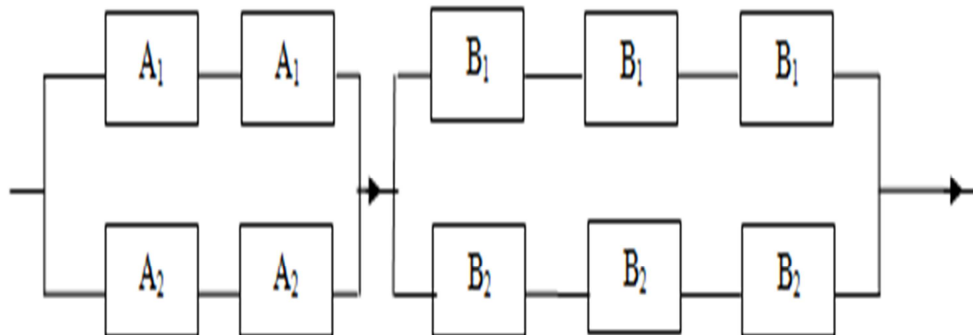


Figure 2: Block Diagram of System

For identically distributed components with statistically-independent failure processes, the availability A_{SC} (t) of the whole system can then be evaluated as:

$$A_{SC}(t) = 4A^5(t) - 2A^7(t) - 2A^8(t) + A^{10}(t) \quad (13)$$

Substituting (4) in (13) for $\theta_i = \theta = 2.600$ and $\alpha_i = \alpha = 1.800$, $i=1, 2, \dots, 10$, the availability $A_{SC}(t)$ for this system against time t is shown in Figure 3.

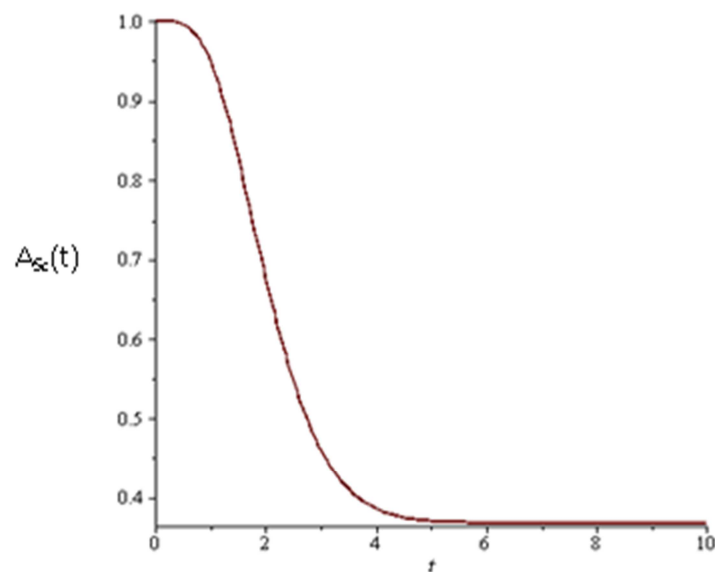


Figure 3: System Availability for i.i.d. Components

For identically distributed components with statistically-independent failure processes, the reliability $R_{SC}(t)$ of the whole system with associated equation (5) when $\theta_i=0$, $i=1,2,\dots,10$, can then be evaluated as:

$$R_{SC}(t) = 4 \exp\left[-\frac{5t^2}{2\theta^2}\right] - 2 \exp\left[-\frac{7t^2}{2\theta^2}\right] - 2 \exp\left[-\frac{4t^2}{\theta^2}\right] + \exp\left[-\frac{5t^2}{\theta^2}\right] \quad (14)$$

Now for $\theta=2.600$ we can use the previous equation to study the effect of increasing time t on reliability $R_{SC}(t)$ for this system in the following Figure.

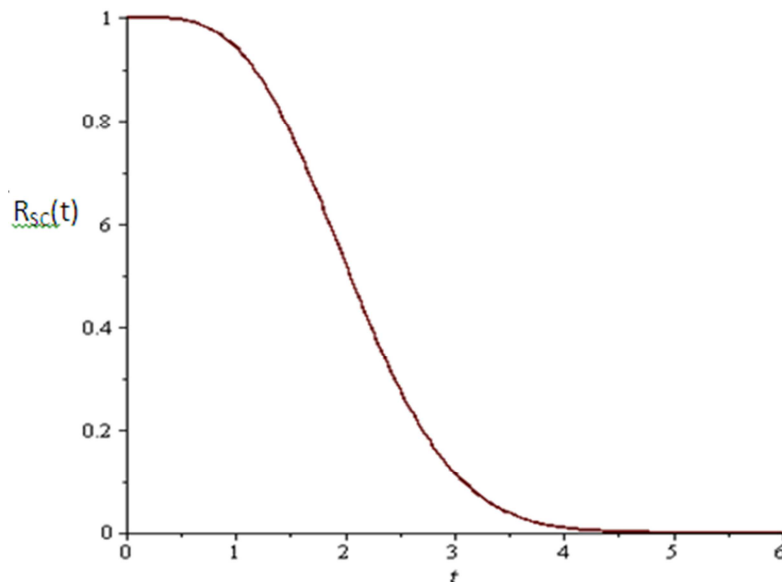


Figure 4: System Reliability for i.i.d. Components

For comparison purposes, the one-component availability remains at the value of a component in the ten-component common-cause system, but the system consists statistically-independent and identically distributed (i.i.d) components that are,

when $A(t) = A_{10}^{(1)}(t)$ in equation (13) the system effects of common-cause failures and represents the prediction of a practitioner assessing all failures causes against a component, but assuming a “statistically-independence” model. In that case, we have:

$$A_{10}^{(1)}(t) = \prod_{i=1}^{10} [A_i(t)]^{(i-1)}$$

$$= A_1(t) A_2^9(t) A_3^{36}(t) A_4^{84}(t) A_5^{126}(t) A_6^{126}(t) A_7^{84}(t) A_8^{36}(t) A_9^9(t) A_{10}(t)$$

When the identically distributed components have common-cause failures, we have:

$$A_{CC}(t) = 4A_{10}^{(5)}(t) - 2A_{10}^{(7)}(t) - 2A_{10}^{(8)}(t) + A_{10}^{(10)}(t) \quad (15)$$

Where:

$$A_{10}^{(k)}(t) = \prod_{m=11-k}^{10} A_m^{(1)}(t), k = 5, 7, 8, 10$$

Let the failure and repair rates are:

The Parameters θ_i and α_i , assuming failure and repair rates for number of simultaneous failures

Failure Parameter	Number of Simultaneous Failures	Simultaneous Failure Rate	Repair Parameter	Simultaneous Repair Rate
θ_1, θ_2	1, 2	$\lambda_I(t)$	α_1, α_2	$\mu_I(t)$
θ_3, θ_4	3, 4	$\lambda_{II}(t)$	α_3, α_4	$\mu_{II}(t)$
$\theta_5, \theta_6, \theta_7$	5, 6, 7	$\lambda_{III}(t)$	$\alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$	$\mu_{III}(t)$
$\theta_8, \theta_9, \theta_{10}$	8, 9, 10	$\lambda_{IV}(t)$	$\alpha_8, \alpha_9, \alpha_{10}$	$\mu_{IV}(t)$

In that case, we have:

$$A_{10}^{(5)}(t) = \prod_{m=6}^{10} A_m^{(1)}(t) = A_6^{(1)}(t) A_7^{(1)}(t) A_8^{(1)}(t) A_9^{(1)}(t) A_{10}^{(1)}(t)$$

$$= A_I^{40}(t) A_{II}^{315}(t) A_{III}^{581}(t) A_{IV}^{56}(t)$$

$$A_{10}^{(7)}(t) = \prod_{m=4}^{10} A_m^{(1)}(t) = A_4^{(1)} A_5^{(1)} A_6^{(1)}(t) A_7^{(1)}(t) A_8^{(1)}(t) A_9^{(1)}(t) A_{10}^{(1)}(t)$$

$$= A_I^{49}(t) A_{II}^{329}(t) A_{III}^{582}(t) A_{IV}^{56}(t)$$

$$A_{10}^{(8)}(t) = \prod_{m=3}^{10} A_m^{(1)}(t) = A_3^{(1)} A_4^{(1)} A_5^{(1)} A_6^{(1)}(t) A_7^{(1)}(t) A_8^{(1)}(t) A_9^{(1)}(t) A_{10}^{(1)}(t)$$

$$= A_I^{52}(t) A_{II}^{330}(t) A_{III}^{582}(t) A_{IV}^{56}(t)$$

$$A_{10}^{(10)}(t) = \prod_{m=1}^{10} A_m^{(1)}(t) = A_1^{(1)} A_2^{(1)} A_3^{(1)} A_4^{(1)} A_5^{(1)} A_6^{(1)}(t) A_7^{(1)}(t) A_8^{(1)}(t) A_9^{(1)}(t) A_{10}^{(1)}(t)$$

$$= A_I^{55}(t) A_{II}^{330}(t) A_{III}^{582}(t) A_{IV}^{56}(t)$$

By substituting in equation (15) we find $A_{CC}(t)$ where $\lambda_i(t)$, $\mu_i(t)$ are given by

Number of Simultaneous of Failure and Repair Rates	$\lambda_i(t)$	$\mu_i(t)$
I	$t/(2.600)^2$	$t/(2.100)^2$
II	$t/(2.700)^2$	$t/(1.800)^2$
III	$t/(2.750)^2$	$t/(1.700)^2$
IV	$t/(2.760)^2$	$t/(1.600)^2$

The availability $A_{CC}(t)$ for this system against time t is shown in Figure 5.

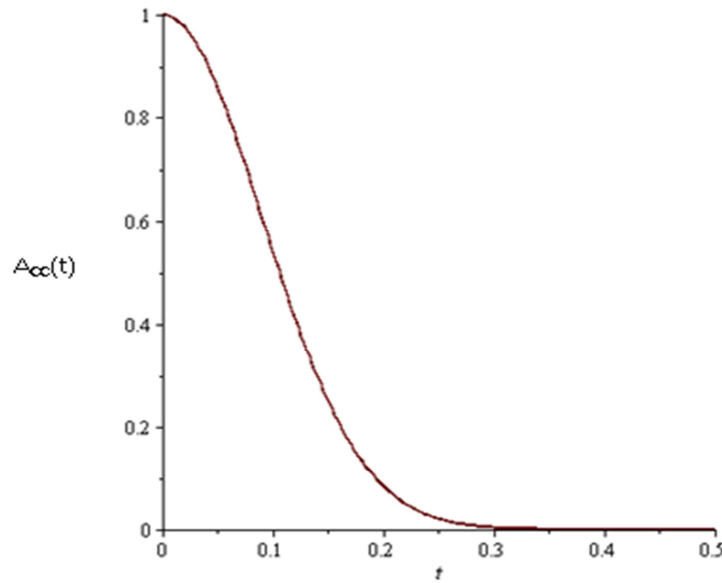


Figure 5: System Availability for Common Cause Components

At time 0.2 the i.i.d. system availability becomes:

$A_{SC}(0.2) = 0.9998$, $A_{CC}(0.2) = 0.0840$ thus, for this case the system availability assuming common-cause failures is lower than the i.i.d. system availability.

For comparison purposes, the one-component reliability remains at the value of a component in the 10-component common-cause system, but the system consists statistically-independent and identically distributed (i.i.d) components that are, calculate $R_{SC}(t)$ when $R(t) = R_{10}^{(1)}(t)$ in equation (14).

The resulting reliability neglects, the system effects of common-cause failures and represents the prediction of a practitioner assessing all failures causes against a component, but assuming a “statistically independence” model. In that case, we have:

$$R_{10}^{(1)}(t) = \prod_{i=1}^{10} [\exp[-\frac{t^2}{2\theta_i^2}]]^{\binom{9}{i-1}} \quad (16)$$

When the identically distributed components have common-cause failures, we have:

$$R_{CC}(t) = 4R_{10}^{(5)}(t) - 2R_{10}^{(7)}(t) - 2R_{10}^{(8)}(t) + R_{10}^{(10)}(t) \quad (17)$$

where

$$R_{10}^{(k)}(t) = \prod_{m=11-k}^{10} R_m^{(1)}(t), \quad k = 5, 7, 8, 10$$

Where the reliability of a single component in a 10-component system given by (16) is:

$$R_{10}^{(1)}(t) = \exp[-(\frac{1}{\theta_I^2} + \frac{9}{\theta_I^2} + \frac{36}{\theta_{II}^2} + \frac{84}{\theta_{II}^2} + 2 \times \frac{126}{\theta_{III}^2} + \frac{84}{\theta_{III}^2} + \frac{36}{\theta_{IV}^2} + \frac{9}{\theta_{IV}^2} + \frac{1}{\theta_{IV}^2})(\frac{t^2}{2})]$$

We find $R_{10}^{(5)}(t)$, $R_{10}^{(7)}(t)$, $R_{10}^{(8)}(t)$ and $R_{10}^{(10)}(t)$ similar as availability and substitution in equation (17) we find $R_{CC}(t)$ by using previous values of the simultaneous of failure rates.

The reliability $R_{CC}(t)$ for this system against time t is shown in Figure 6.

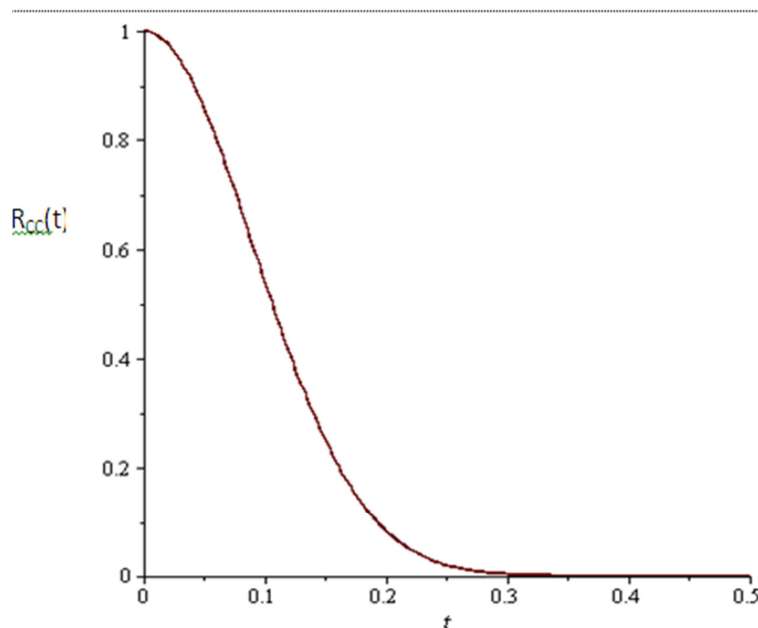


Figure 6: System Reliability for Common Cause Components

At time 0.2 the i.i.d. system reliability becomes:

$R_{SC}(0.2) = 0.9998$, $R_{CC}(0.2) = 0.0833$ thus, for this case the system reliability assuming common-cause failures is lower than the i.i.d. system reliability.

Consider that the life and repair times follow Rayleigh distribution with fuzzy parameters, so the (failure/repair) rates are given by the following relation:

fuzzy(failure/repair) rates are:

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i(t) = \frac{t}{\tilde{\theta}_i^2}, \quad \tilde{\mu}_i(t) = \frac{t}{\tilde{\alpha}_i^2}, \quad i = I, II, III, IV$$

Thus,

$$\tilde{A}_i(t) = \frac{1}{\tilde{\theta}_i^2 + \tilde{\alpha}_i^2} [\tilde{\theta}_i^2 + \tilde{\alpha}_i^2 \exp - \frac{1}{2} (\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i^2 + \tilde{\alpha}_i^2}{\tilde{\theta}_i^2 \tilde{\alpha}_i^2} t^2)] , i = I, II, III, IV$$

$$\tilde{R}_i(t) = \exp[-\frac{t}{2\tilde{\theta}_i^2}], \quad i = I, II, III, IV$$

Now, we will apply the introduced procedure with setting the following data.

For $\tilde{\theta}_I, \tilde{\alpha}_I$: Let $m = 70, \sum_{i=1}^{70} X_i^2 = 1220, m' = 70, \sum_{i=1}^{70} X_i'^2 = 800$,

For $\tilde{\theta}_{II}, \tilde{\alpha}_{II}$: Let $m = 50, \sum_{i=1}^{50} X_i^2 = 1000, m' = 50, \sum_{i=1}^{50} X_i'^2 = 600$,

For $\tilde{\theta}_{III}, \tilde{\alpha}_{III}$: Let $m = 40, \sum_{i=1}^{40} X_i^2 = 850, m' = 40, \sum_{i=1}^{40} X_i'^2 = 400$,

For $\tilde{\theta}_{IV}, \tilde{\alpha}_{IV}$: Let $m = 36, \sum_{i=1}^{36} X_i^2 = 800, m' = 36, \sum_{i=1}^{36} X_i'^2 = 250$.

We calculate the intervals for the parameters $\tilde{\theta}_i, \tilde{\alpha}_i, i=I, II, III, IV$ corresponding to the α -cuts and the results are show in tables 1 and 2, respectively.

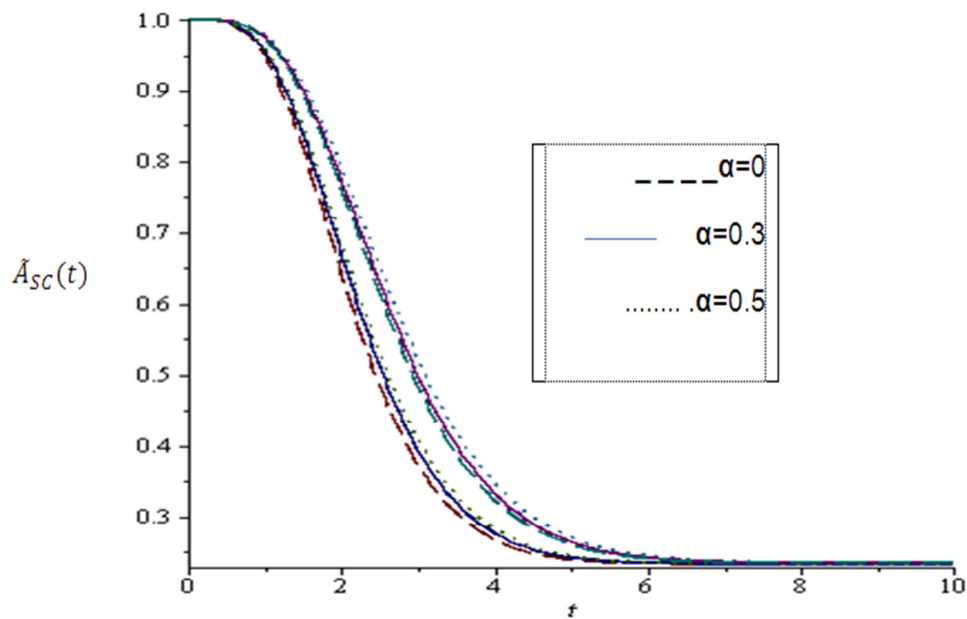
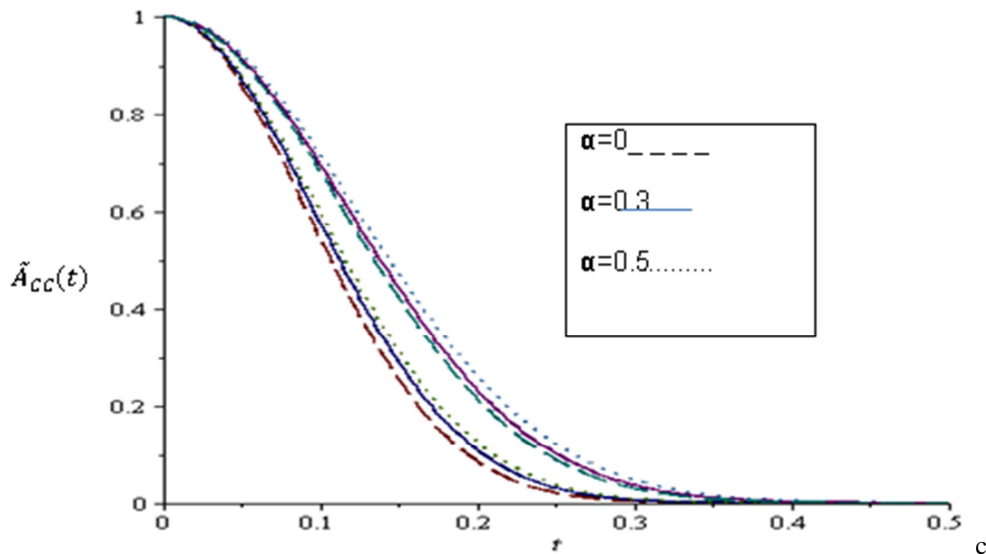
Table 1: The Intervals for $\tilde{\theta}_I, \tilde{\theta}_{II}, \tilde{\theta}_{III}, \tilde{\theta}_{IV}$ Corresponding to α -cut = 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5

α -cut	$[\tilde{\theta}_I^L, \tilde{\theta}_I^U]$	$[\tilde{\theta}_{II}^L, \tilde{\theta}_{II}^U]$	$[\tilde{\theta}_{III}^L, \tilde{\theta}_{III}^U]$	$[\tilde{\theta}_{IV}^L, \tilde{\theta}_{IV}^U]$
0	[2.606,3.295]	[2.724,3.599]	[2.757,3.760]	[2.787,3.872]
0.1	[2.640,3.260]	[2.767,3.555]	2.807,3.709]	[2.841,3.817]
0.2	[2.675,3.226]	[3.811,3.511]	[2.857,3.659]	[2.895,3.763]
0.3	[2.709,3.191]	[2.855,3.467]	[2.907,3.609]	[2.907,3.609]
0.4	[2.744,3.157]	[2.899,3.424]	[2.957,3.559]	[2.957,3.559]
0.5	[2.778,3.123]	[2.943,3.380]	[3.008,3.509]	[3.008,3.509]

Table 2: The Intervals for $\tilde{\alpha}_I, \tilde{\alpha}_{II}, \tilde{\alpha}_{III}, \tilde{\alpha}_{IV}$ Corresponding to α -cut = 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5

α -cut	$[\tilde{\alpha}_I^L, \tilde{\alpha}_I^U]$	$[\tilde{\alpha}_{II}^L, \tilde{\alpha}_{II}^U]$	$[\tilde{\alpha}_{III}^L, \tilde{\alpha}_{III}^U]$	$[\tilde{\alpha}_{IV}^L, \tilde{\alpha}_{IV}^U]$
0	[2.113, 2.666]	[2.109, 2.788]	[1.891, 2.580]	[1.561, 2.164]
0.1	[2.140, 2.638]	[2.143, 2.754]	[1.925, 2.545]	[1.591, 2.133]
0.2	[2.168, 2.610]	[2.177, 2.720]	[1.96, 2.511]	[1.621, 2.103]
0.3	[2.196, 2.583]	[2.211, 2.686]	[1.994, 2.476]	[1.651, 2.073]
0.4	[2.223, 2.555]	[2.245, 2.652]	[2.029, 2.442]	[1.681, 2.043]
0.5	[2.251, 2.528]	[2.279, 2.618]	[2.063, 2.408]	[1.712, 2.013]

Using MAPLE programme we can calculate the availability functions $\tilde{A}_{SC}(t)$, $\tilde{A}_{CC}(t)$ and the reliability functions $\tilde{R}_{SC}(t)$, $\tilde{R}_{CC}(t)$. We get the fuzzy availability and reliability functions and represent them graphically at different values of α -cut=0, 0.3, 0.5 are show in Figures 7-10.

**Figure 7: System Availability for i.i.d. Components $\tilde{A}_{SC}(t)$** **Figure 8: System Availability for Common-Cause Components $\tilde{A}_{CC}(t)$**

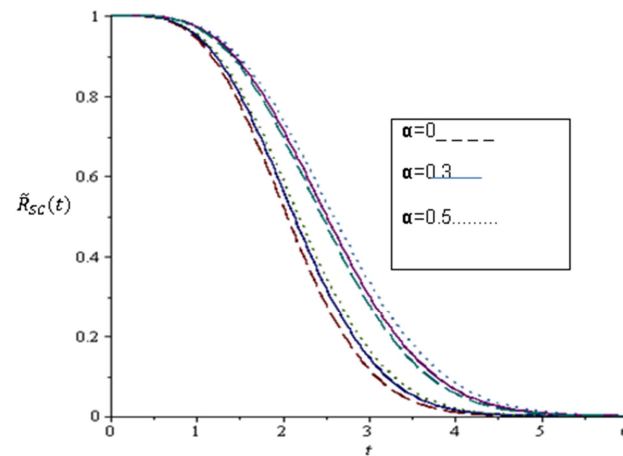


Figure 9: System Reliability for i.i.d. Components $\tilde{R}_{sc}(t)$

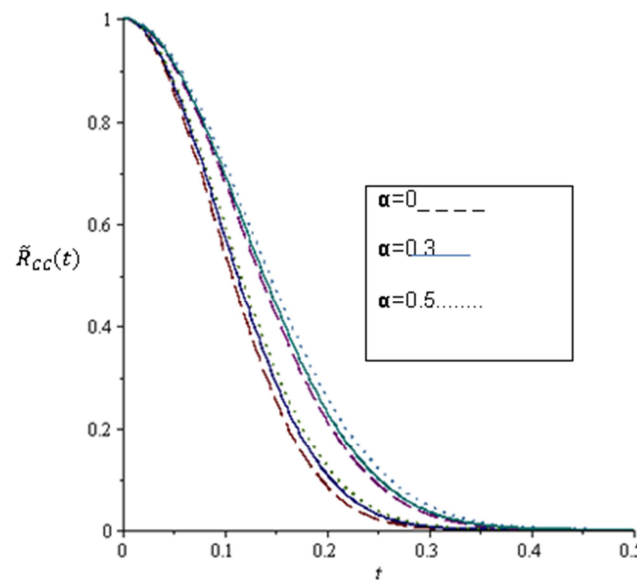


Figure 10: System Reliability for Common-Cause Components $\tilde{R}_{cc}(t)$

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we proposed Rayleigh distribution to analyze the i.i.d. and CCF of the systems reliability and availability. the result shows that the systems availability and reliability, assuming common-cause, failures, is appreciably lower than the i.i.d. systems availability and reliability. In this paper the parameter was considered as fuzzy triangular number and their α -cut set are presented. Also, we obtained the numerical solutions of the system consisting of 10-components in two subsystems A, B arranged in series-parallel.

REFERENCES

1. A. W. Marshall and I. Olkin, "A multivariate exponential distribution," *J. Amer. Statistical Assoc.*, vol. 62, pp. 30–44, 1967.
2. K. N. Fleming, "A reliability model for common mode failures in redundant safety systems," General Atomic Company, San Diego, CA, Report GA-A13284, 1975.

3. J. K. Vaurio, "The theory and quantification of common-cause shock events for redundant standby systems," *Reliability Eng'g and System Safety*, vol. 43, no. 3, pp. 289–305, 1994.
4. G. E. Apostolakis, "The effect of a certain class of potential common mode failures on the reliability of redundant systems," *Nuclear Eng. and Design*, vol. 36, pp. 123–133, 1976.
5. W. E. Vesely, "Estimating common-cause failure probabilities in reliability and risk analyzes: Marshall–Olkin specializations," in *Nuclear Systems Reliability Eng. and Risk Assessment*, J. B. Fussell and G. R. Burdick, Eds: Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, 1977, pp. 314–341.
6. B. S. Dhillon and O. C. Anude, "Common-cause failures in engineering systems: A review," *Int'l J. Reliability, Quality, and Safety Eng'g*, vol. 1, pp. 103–129, Mar. 1994.
7. K. N. Fleming and A. Mosleh, "Common-cause data analysis and implications in system modeling," in *Proc. Int'l Topical Meeting on Probabilistic Safety Methods and Applications*, vol. 1, 1985, EPRI NP-3912-SR, pp. 3/1–3/12.
8. K. C. Chae and G. M. Clark, "System reliability in the presence of common-cause failures," *IEEE Trans. Reliability*, vol. R-35, pp. 32–35, 1986.
9. J. K. Vaurio, "An implicit method for incorporating common-cause failures in system analysis," *IEEE Trans. Reliability*, vol. 47, pp. 173–180, 1998.
10. M. A. El-Damcese, "Reliability of system subject to common-cause hazards assumed to obey an exponential power model," *Nuclear Eng'g and Design*, vol. 167, pp. 85–90, 1996.
11. M.A. El-Damcese and Kh. A. AbdAltif, "System Availability in the Presence of Estimating Common-Cause Time-Varying Failure Rates," *American Journal of Applied Science*, vol. 2 (4), pp. 832-835, 2005.
12. E. BalouiJamkhaneh, "An evaluation of the systems reliability using fuzzy lifetime distribution," *Journal of Applied Mathematics, Islamic Azad University of Lahijan*, vol. 7(28), pp. 73-80, 2011.
13. A. L. Zadeh, "Fuzzy sets as a basis for a theory of possibility," *Fuzzy sets and systems*, vol. 100, pp. 9-34, 1999.
14. J. James Buckley and E. Eslami, "Fuzzy Markov chains: uncertain probabilities," *Mathware & soft computing*, vol. 9(1), pp. 33-41, 2008.
15. M. S. Chen, "Fuzzy system reliability analysis using fuzzy number arithmetic operations," *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, vol. 64(1), pp. 31-38, 1994.
16. S. Wang, and W. Junzo, "Reliability optimization of a series-parallel system with fuzzy random lifetimes," *International Journal of Innovative Computing, Information and Control*, vol. 5(6), pp. 1547-1558, 2009.
17. M. Sharifi, M. Ganjian, and P. Shafiee, "Reliability of a System with n Parallel and Not Identical Elements with Constant Failure Rates," *Computational Intelligence for Modelling, Control and Automation, 2006 and International Conference on Intelligent Agents, Web Technologies and Internet Commerce, International Conference on. IEEE*, 2006.

18. M. Sharifi, M. Azizollah, and N. Rasool, "Real Time Study of a k-out-of-n System: n Identical Elements with Increasing Failure Rates, "Iranian Journal of Operations Research, vol. 1(2), pp.56-67, 2009.
19. El-DamceseMedhat and TemrazNeama, "Analysis of availability and reliability of k-out-of-n: F model with fuzzy rates, "Int. J. Computational Science and Engineering, vol. 10, Nos. 1/2, pp. 192-201, 2015.